

VOL. XXX.

AUGUSTA, MAINE, THURSDAY MORNING, AUGUST 14, 1862.

NO. 35.

Maine Farmer.

EZEKIEL HOLMES, & Editors.

Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man.

One of our Early Farmers.

To Dr. Benjamin Vaughan, late of Hallowell, the farmers of this portion of the State are more largely indebted for the early advancement of agriculture, and for the improvement of stock, seeds, fruits, methods of husbandry, &c., than to any other person. Coming to this country in 1796, he made Hallowell his permanent residence, settling on a family estate derived from his maternal grandfather, from whom the town received its name. This tract of land was one mile wide, and extended back from the river to Wintrop Pond, (Cobbs Center, Great Pond,) a distance of five miles. As a natural consequence, in a tract of land of this extent, there existed a considerable diversity of soil, although the chief portion of it was clayey texture, in some places clay predominating, in others the soil taking more the character of a loam. A creek of considerable size, at one place forming a pond of several acres in extent, with numerous smaller streams are found on this tract. The land situated on these creeks now constitutes the best portion for grain to be seen on the entire extent of the original tract. Dr. Benjamin Vaughan and his brother Charles, had homesteads upon this estate; the latter resided on his farm about one mile from the village, while the former lived in the village, his farm being managed by his eldest son. (It will be remembered by many that Sanford Howard, Esq., now editor of the Boston *Cultivator* at one time leased and managed this farm.) Speaking of Dr. Vaughan's residence in Hallowell, Hon. R. H. Gardner, says: (Me. Hist. Col. Vol. 6, p. 90.) "Here he occupied himself in study, in an extensive correspondence with distinguished persons on both sides of the Atlantic, and in promoting the welfare of the place, and of the people among whom he had fixed his residence." Dr. Vaughan was a diligent student and passed most of his time among his books. His library was extensive, and his books give evidence that they were all carefully read, for it is almost impossible to find one in which pencil marks and Ms notes do not appear. A gentleman who was acquainted with Dr. Vaughan, and from whom we have obtained some incidents of his life, says it was his custom in fair weather, to walk a certain number of miles each day for exercise; and when the weather would not admit of it, he would walk upon his piazza, as many hours as would be equivalent to the distance walked.

Dr. Vaughan studied medicine and received his degree of M. D. at Edinburgh, Scotland. His medical library which now belongs to the Insane Asylum in this city, consisted of about 500 volumes, and his medical education became of great use to him. He practiced considerably in his neighborhood and among those engaged upon his farm, and was often called to consult in important cases; and always rendered his services gratuitously.

As an agriculturist, Dr. Vaughan was highly distinguished, and was one of the early members of the old "Massachusetts Society for the Promotion of Agriculture," which was established in 1792, being the second Society of its class formed in this country. He wrote largely upon agricultural topics, and upon whatever subject engaged, treated it at considerable length and in a style learned, systematic and elaborate. Many of his articles were published in the "Papers upon Agriculture" issued by the Society, and also in the "Quarterly Journal and Repository" of a more recent date. In several instances he contributed articles which formed the whole volume of Transactions, usually writing them under the name of "A Kennebec Farmer."

Dr. Vaughan's farm, as has been said, was chiefly managed by his son. In connection with the farm there was an extensive garden, a large orchard and a nursery of fruit trees. The garden comprised about four acres, and contained all kinds of vegetables, fruits, &c. The orchard was kept in good order, although the quality of the fruit was not so good as later years have produced. It was chiefly made into cider of which large quantities were then manufactured. We have been told that one year, trees to the value of \$800 were sold from the nursery. Dr. Vaughan imported stock, seeds, plants and implements from England; and the whole country around had the benefits of them, and always without charge. Mr. Gardner, says: "His fortune was considerably diminished by the large sums expended upon his farm and nursery."

The tract of land originally taken up by Dr. Vaughan, now comprises many excellent farms, although there is much land upon it not cleared nor suitable for cultivation. It is however, well wooded, and woodland in this locality, will always become the most valuable of all land.

Wool in California.

The farmers in Maine have but little idea of the extent of the wool business of California, and the manner in which the wool farmers manage their sheep ranges. In an article on the Wool crop of the State, in the California *Farmer*, of the 31st ult., we find a few notes concerning some of the ranges where the number of sheep kept amounts to from ten to seventeen thousand each. One of these is that of the Messrs. Flint, Bixby & Co., who we copy below. All of this firm are Somerset county men, who went to California some ten years ago to engage in the business of sheep raising, and we are pleased to know that their enterprise has proved so successful. The account says:

A Chapter of Horticultural Hints.

ANOTHER REMEDY FOR BARK LICE. It is stated in the *Journal of the Illinois State Agricultural Society*, that Mr. A. Sherman, uses, as an effectual remedy against these insects, linseed oil and tar in equal quantities. These are mixed over a gentle fire to dissolve the tar, and the mixture is applied with a brush at any time during the winter or spring. By its application to the orchard the trees have become free from insects, and healthy and fruitful.

TRAINING CURRANTS. Currant bushes can be trained and made to grow in any desired form, either as a bush, tree, or upon a trellis. If trained as a bush, only three, or at most, four, shoots should start from the ground at once. After bearing two years, allow one or two strong shoots to start from the bottom, to take the place of one or two of the old ones, which should be cut away. One shoot may be allowed afterward to grow every year, to replace an old one; and thus the plant will be entirely renewed every three or four years.

HINTS ABOUT THE DAHLIA. The dahlia is our favorite flower, and it must from its many desirable qualities always be popular, if at the present time it is a little out of favor. Some in our yard, are now—Aug. 1st—in full perfection of bloom, and are truly magnificent. Any garden soil will grow this flower, but we prefer a compost made of old black garden mould, clay, and sandy peat loam. In wintering the dahlia, take up the tubers as soon as the tops are killed by the frost, do not separate them, but pack them in a box of dry sand or loam, placing them in a dry cellar out of the way of frost, till wanted for propagation in the spring. This flower is particularly worthy of culture on account of its cheapness, the ease with which it is grown, and the rich display it makes in the garden when other flowers are gone.

DWARF TREES AGAIN. We have frequently urged the claims and advantages of dwarf or low headed trees for apples, &c. The *Prairie Farmer* says that low headed trees are less liable to the attack of borers and grubs than high ones, as they delight to lay their eggs in the sun scalded portions of the bark, as its slow growth and damp condition pleases them better than the rapid growing bark that often holds them fast by its roots.

AN EXHIBITION OF WINES. We mention, as showing to what an extent the grape growing and wine making interests of our country have been developed within the last ten years; that a "Wine Fair," or Exhibition of American Wines is to be held under direction of the U. S. Agricultural Society at Washington, on the second Wednesday of January next. The effort will be made to systemize and classify the varieties of wines of American manufacture, and reduce them to a convenient commercial nomenclature. Silver and bronze medals are offered as prizes in the various classes of sparkling and dry wines. For information, &c., address W. T. Dennis, Chairman of Committee, Washington, D. C.

THE ELIM TREE WORKS. It is well known that for years the worms have made such havoc among the elm trees of New Haven, Conn., that it was feared all of them would be destroyed. A plan has been adopted which seems to be effectual in preventing their ravages. A bandage of fine straw was placed around each tree, so as to prevent a bristling barrier to the upward march of the worms; and above this a leaden trough was placed completely surrounding the tree. This was filled with oil, and furnished with a projecting roof of the same metal. If any worms passed the straw they were caught in the oil, taken out and killed.

RIPENING GRAPES. A horticulturist in New Bedford, (says the *Country Gentleman*)—where the sea winds are often injurious to grapes if trained to a common trellis—has succeeded admirably in ripening his grapes by training them to a low, nearly level trellis, under which is placed quite a quantity of rocks, so that the grapes are but a few inches above the rocks. This gives them protection from the winds and the reflection from the stones causes them to ripen a great deal sooner than when in a different position.

DROPPING VS. "WEEPING." Trees do not weep." So says the *Horticulturist* for August, in the course of some remarks upon the use of the word *weeping* as applied to certain kinds of trees. Many kinds of drooping trees—such as some varieties of the willow—are the perfection of gracefulness and levity, and should not be associated with the sadness and melancholy of weeping. Why will nurseriesmen and others persist in calling drooping trees, *weeping*? It is a misnomer and should be abolished.

Large Calf.

Mr. Geo. W. Chamberlain of Carmel, writes us that he has a Durham calf five months old, of which he gives the following account of his dimensions: "I put him on to the scale this evening and find his weight to be 236 lbs.; his girl, 4 feet 9 inches; length, 5 feet 11 inches; height, 3 feet 11 inches; width of hip, 15 inches; girth of fore arm, 18 inches; girth of gambre, 16 inches; his symmetry perfect, color red and white finely spotted." He writes that he will sell him for \$75, or give that sum for one which will mate him in all respects.

Chemistry Again—Query.

Mr. Eboras:—I have Porter's Chemistry, which is a good work of its kind, but I want a work on analytical chemistry. Porter's Chemistry only devotes two pages to this subject. He says "Particulars on this subject must be sought in works on analytical chemistry." Any information on this subject will be gratefully received.

Curing Tobacco—Query.

Mr. Eboras:—Will you give the goodness to the reader of *The Farmer*, some information as to the right method of cultivating and curing tobacco. Should the suckers be taken off, or left to grow? I have some growing that looks well, but it is full of suckers.

Truly yours, NEWPORT.

NOTE. Will some of our correspondents who have had experience in growing this plant give the requested information.—Ebo.

Canadian Stock Importation.

We are pleased to learn, as we do from the last number of the *Canadian Agriculturist*—that Mr. Simon Beattie of Markham, (Upper Canada,) has just returned from Scotland with some choice cattle and other kinds of stock. Mr. Beattie is one of the most successful and enterprising farmers in that section; and his importation will add greatly to the improvement of the breeds of stock in the country. He left Aman, Scotland, on the 14th of April last, and was over nine weeks in the passage to Quebec. Notwithstanding it was extremely rough, the stock escaped serious damage, and arrived in good condition. The importation consists of the following animals:

"A thoroughbred stallion, 5 years old, sired by George Plover, gr. gr. Irish Bird-Catcher, gr. sire Hercules; dam by Corona, gr. dam Robert Pantalo, gr. gr. dam by Touchstone, a two Durham 2 year old heifers, bred by Mr. Robert Syne, Red Kirk, Dumfriesshire, both sired by General Hawlock, (16130,) and out of pure horned dams of Mr. Syne's breeding.

Six head of Ayrshire cattle, viz.: 1 cow, 2 two year old heifers, and two bull calves. The cow and one of the bull calves from the stock of Mr. Anderson, near Ayr; the heifers and the other two from the herds of Mr. McKirdy and Mr. Edmunds.

Fourty-four head of sheep, consisting of 22 Leicester rams, and 10 ewes of the same breed, all from some of the principal breeders in Yorkshire; and two Southdown ewes from Mr. McConnel, Dumfriesshire, bred from the Duke of Richmond's stock.

Of pigs, two sows and one boar of the York breed, six month old; and after arrival of the best Dorking and Black Spanish fowls."

Lico on Calves—Query.

MR. EDITORS:—Will you let me know through the medium of your valuable paper, of any such lico that will kill calves. I have tried tobacco, scur, cedar, and in fact almost everything I can think of to get rid of this. My neighbors could think of nothing, and nothing was of any use.

Patent, July 28, 1862.

NOTE. We can hardly tell. It would seem that some of the remedies you have applied would be sufficient to kill the critters, but they are often very tenacious of life. We have cured them washing thoroughly the animal in strong soap suds, and also by putting on Kerosene. It is seldom that animals are troubled with them when other flowers are gone.

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NOTE. We are unable to answer Philom's question. There is no work on the subject of analytical chemistry, at either of our city bookstores, and we cannot find such a treatise upon the shelves of the State Library. Any of our correspondents acquainted with such a work will please reply.—Ebo.

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THE MAINE FARMER: AN

Maine Farmer,

Augusta, Thursday, August 14, 1862.

Notice.

Mr. S. N. Tabor will call upon subscribers in Penobscot County.
Mr. Warren Fuller will call upon subscribers in Somerset County.
Mr. Jas. Stevens is now engaged in calling on subscribers in Cumberland County.

Crops and the Harvest.

In our own State and also throughout New England, so far as we are able to learn from our numerous exchanges, the prospect of the growing crops is most promising. Hay has generally been secured, and has turned out much better than was anticipated in the former part of the season. The frequent rains of the past fortnight, if they have somewhat interfered with the work of haying, have been a benefit to potatoes, and also to grain crops generally. Wheat gives the assurance of a good yield, and as yet we have heard of no appearance of the weevil. The spuds, which visited us in such countless numbers last season, has not been seen to any extent, on either oats or barley. Corn is about a week later than is usual at this time, but since the warm weather of the past week commenced it has grown wonderfully, and is now promising a good crop. Apples are, in this vicinity, falling from the trees to an extent rather unusual, yet we think the yield will be a good one, notwithstanding this appearance of the weevil.

The work of harvesting the immense grain crops of the Middle and Western States, may now be considered as over; and some calculations can be formed as to the returns of the different States. We have gathered from the sources at command some statements of the crops, and find that on the whole, they will compare most favorably with previous seasons.

The wheat crop of Indiana was much injured

by alternate rain and very hot sun-shine; and in

Iowa, while the winter or fall wheat has pro

duced well—the spring wheat has proved a nearly

total failure, in a large part of the State.

The wheat crop of Ohio is put down at 30,000,000

bushe—surplus above what is needed for food

and seed, of seventeen million. The breadth of

land sown to wheat this year in the State of Min

nesota, was at least one-third more than last

year, and the yield will be correspondingly greater.

Throughout the entire State of Illinois the

crop is reported as uncommonly heavy and has

all been secured. In Central New York, every

crop with the exception of hay, which will hardly

reach the average, is represented as being good,

while fruit of all kinds is abundant. New Jersey

has harvested her wheat crop, and the yield is

most satisfactory. In Pennsylvania the wheat

crop is immense; and we learn by some of our

exchanges from that State, "that if the corn and

other crops yield as heavy as present appearances

promise, the farmers will be troubled for barn

room," which is certainly a most cheering report

in these times when large armies are to be fed,

and when few can till the ground. In some

parts of Maryland the wheat crop is below the

average, but in the majority of counties it is

above or fully equal to an average, while in Western Virginia the crop is all harvested and is reported heavy.

Our summary thus far, has related to the

wheat crop chiefly; but in the States named

above, other crops, including oats, rye, corn,

barley, &c., are generally reported as promising.

In some instances the early drouth has caused

these grains to fall below the average, but in

most cases they are represented as being good.

In the northern part of Missouri, where busi-

ness and jayhawking have not disturbed to

any great extent the peaceful inhabitants, the

farmers have been richly rewarded, and their

prospect is furthermore cheering. It is said the

State will send to market this year fourfold her

usual amount of tobacco.

Finally, it is safe to calculate that throughout

the entire Northern States, the crops will not fall

below that of any previous year, except in the

item of hay, and even this will, in most sections,

be an average. With an army of 600,000 in the

field of war, a large part of them taken from agri-

cultural pursuits; the work on the fields of

peaceful labor has not been interrupted, but will

yield their generous returns. The use of ma-

chinery in farm labor has been brought into

requisition and has nearly made up the deficiency

caused by the want of laborers. Let us be

thankful for the bounteous crops given us, and

hope that are long all our soldier boys may be al-

lowed to leave off fighting and return again to

the pursuits of the farm.

ANOTHER VOLUNTEER REGIMENT. Gov. Wash-

ington has received authority from the War De-

partment to organize another regiment of infan-

try from the State quota, and has issued orders

accordingly. The regiment will immediately go

into camp at Island Park in Portland. The fol-

lowing field officers have been appointed by the

Governor: Adlbert Ames, now of Washington, D. C., formerly of Rockland in this State, Col-

Col. Ames was First Lieutenant of the

Fifth United States Artillery, and fought gall-

antly at the battle of Bull Run, where he was

wounded and fell from his horse. He refused to

be carried from the field, and was placed on a

caisson by his men, where he fought out the

battle with the greatest determination and skill. Col. A. graduated at West Point with distinguished honor. Prof. Joshua L. Chamberlain of Bruns-

wick, Lieutenant Colonel; Capt. Chas. D. Gil-

lum, Bangor of the 7th regiment, Major. The

number of men required to fill the ranks of the

new regiment are already recruited, and a large

portion of them have already gone into camp.

It will be known as the 20th regiment Maine

Volunteers.

THE NEW RAILROAD TARIFF. Last week we al-

luded to the large increase of the railroad fare

from Augusta to Boston to meet the new govern-

ment tax of three per cent. We have since as-

certained, and it affords us much gratification

to state, that no part of the increase mentioned

is received by the Portland & Kennebec Railroad.

The fifty cents added to the through fare is levied

upon passengers by the managers of the Boston

Roads, and the whole amount thus issued is ap-

propriated by the State. The K. & P. Railroad has

only increased its tariff of way fares to cover the

government tax, the propriety of which we pre-

sume nobody is disposed to call in question.

THE NEW DRAFT. The Adjutant General of

United States has issued full regulations for en-

rolling and drafting the militia of the sever-

States for nine months service in accordance with the recent call of the President. The quota of

Maine will be about 9500. Those drafted into the service are required to report themselves for duty in five days from the date of the drafting or furnish an acceptable substitute. The draft is

expected to be made on the 1st of September. We shall publish the regulations of the War De-

partment in full next week.

ACCIDENT. We learn that Wm. Morgridge,

Esq., of Manchester, while at work with a mow-

ing machine on his farm on Monday, had his

right foot so badly lacerated by the knife while

the machine was in motion, as to require ampu-

tation. The operation was performed by Dr.

Hill of this city. Mr. Morgridge is a gentleman

over seventy years, but having a vigorous con-

stitution, it is hoped that nothing more serious than

the loss of his leg will result from the accident.

EDWARD COOPER. The Adjutant General of

Massachusetts has issued a general order for

the militia of the State to be mustered into ser-

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